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Oct 9th, 2019

Outline

A Question from Grade School

(Illustrating beamer's `\pause` command.)

A couple of years ago, a fifth-grade teacher asked me to explain to her the reasoning behind the “invert and multiply” rule for dividing fractions, e.g.

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Let's try to find answers understandable by fifth graders (at least the more patient ones).

Cookie Approach

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If we give $\frac{1}{3}$ of a cookie to each person, how many people can we feed with 1 cookie?

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If we give $1/3$ of a cookie to each person, how many people can we feed with 1 cookie?

Obviously, the answer is 3.

So we've derived the “invert and multiply” rule in a special case:

$$1 \div \frac{1}{3} = 3$$

Cookie Approach

But what if we give $2/3$ of a cookie, not $1/3$, to each person?

We're giving $2\times$ as much per person.

So we can feed only $1/2$ as many people.

So we feed $\frac{1}{2} \times 3 = \frac{3}{2}$.¹

So we've derived the “invert and multiply” rule in another case:

$$1 \div \frac{2}{3} = \frac{3}{2}$$

¹One person gets only a half share.

Cookie Approach

Now, suppose we have only $4/5$ of a cookie.

Then we can feed only $4/5$ as many people, i.e.

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So we've derived the “invert and multiply” rule in the general case:

$$\frac{4}{5} \div \frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{3}{2}$$

Outline

A Geometry Proof

(Illustrating beamer's `\uncover` command.)

定理

The angles in a triangle sum to 180° .

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The angles in a triangle sum to 180° .

Plan: Extend AC past C to D. Draw CE parallel to AB.

证明.

1. $u = y$



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Alternate angles of a transversal.



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ACD is a straight line.



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Alternate angles of a transversal.

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4. $z + y + x = 180^\circ$



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ACD is a straight line.

4. $z + y + x = 180^\circ$

Substitution from Steps 1 and 2.



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- ▶ Advanced example:
<http://latex-beamer.sourceforge.net/beamereexample1.pdf>.